



The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

25 & 26 July: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon. Over the last few weeks we have heard, first, the parable of the sower, then three short parables about the weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree, and the leaven in the flour. Today we have additional parables. Together, these words of Jesus paint images of the kingdom that is open to all — all are presented with the invitation. Not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that

Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97 (R.) Lord, I love your commands.

Gospel Acclamation: John 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

SUNDAY READINGS WITH REFLECTIONS: <https://sundayreadingsandreflections.a.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html>

DAILY MASS READINGS: <https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/daily-mass-readings>

INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, in faith we bring our prayers before the Lord.

That our Holy Father Pope Leo will lead God's people with wisdom and truth.

That those who govern or who are in positions of authority will be wise and fair.

That those who teach or counsel others will be given right knowledge and a discerning spirit.

That those who have wealth will share what they have gained with the many who have nothing.

We pray for the children who are initiated into our Church this weekend at the Sacrament of Baptism as well as the children from St Therese's who will undertake the Sacrament of Confirmation this week.

We pray for those who are ill.

We pray for those who have died recently especially: Sister Marie Kehoe RSM, Elisabetta Marino, Ninetta Sauro, Jack Cooney and John Michael Pearson.

And for those we remember at this time, especially: Josip & Anamarija Udovicic, Vilma Manzotti, Eric Bailey, Robert Rosace, Marianne Cannatelli, John Sexton and Mel DuCasse.

Loving God, you teach us of heaven's treasures. Hear our prayers and help us put aside our own gain as we wait for life eternal in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

PARISH FINANCES 2025 During the Parish Strategic Plan consultation process, some parishioners expressed a wish for greater clarity concerning the parish's financial position.

Catholic Parishes' financial year runs from January to December and our financial figures reflect that time period.

In 2025, the parish's income totalled \$705,560, with total expenditure of \$407,977. This robust financial position allows us to plan for the extensive maintenance requirements and proposed improvements across the parish.

Under the guidance of Fr John, the Parish Finance Committee (in consultation with the Parish Leadership Team) is putting together a plan for spending, which includes essential maintenance/repairs as well as aspirational projects. Once the list is complete, the teams will be able to prioritise spending.

ST THERESE'S CHURCH CLOSURE Painting of the east and west transept walls — where we've recently repaired the roof — will begin on Monday 10 August. The church will be closed, only opening for weekend Masses. Some pews will be moved while the painters are here and seating will only be available in the Nave (centre aisle) of the church. There will be no weekday morning Masses at St Therese's while the painters are onsite. Dates where Masses are cancelled and the church is closed are: Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 August and Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 August. We will publish any changes to the closures in the bulletin.

OLN CHURCH MAINTENANCE Painting started this week at OLN church which has uncovered further repairs needed to timber and guttering — these will be carried

out as part of the painting project. We expect the work to be completed within 3 weeks. The painter's equipment has caused some damage to the lawn which will be repaired once the machinery is removed.

MUSIC & LITURGY TEAM Interested in helping shape our parish liturgies? Join us for a Liturgy & Music planning meeting on Saturday 8th August, 9:30am in PACE. You are welcome to come along and see if it's something you'd enjoy being part of.

We'll be planning how to celebrate the Season of Creation (1st September – 4th October 2026), with this year's theme: Water.

If you decide to join the Music/Liturgy team — or any team at Essendon Parish — please make sure you complete all Safeguarding requirements. Scan the QR code on the next page for details and contact the parish office if you need assistance.

OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION APPEAL Thanks so much to all those who gave generously to our Opening the Doors Foundation appeal we raised \$4992 which far exceeded our goal of \$3000.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026 Why the Church is embracing synodality now. The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to witness communion, dialogue, and hope

You can learn more and read the newly released theme papers here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS Are made from wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million.

PRIESTS' MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
OLN 10:00am	Fr John Hannon	Fr Tony Feeney
St T's 6.00pm	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
St T's 9.00am	Fr John Hannon	Fr John Hannon
St T's 10.30am	Bishop Terry Curtin	Fr John Hannon

LECTORS/READERS MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Paul Whiting	Jon Fleming
OLN 10:00am	Adrian Commadeur	Paula O'Byrne
St T's 6.00pm	Tric Joseph & Tony Proctor	Eve Korytkowski
St T's 9.00am	Bruce White & Christine Nelson	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr
St T's 10.30am	Jim Maderazo & Lanelle Eid	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MASS SCHEDULE		
MASS	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
OLN 5:00pm	Fred Grima	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Michael Portelli	Andrew Scaramozzino
St T's 6.00pm	Joe Fittipaldi & Kath Dobson	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St T's 9.00am	Marg Tormey	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10.30am	Marita Hased-Dunne & Miriam Gandolfo	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo

SHARING

memories

A Friendship group supporting parishioners through life's challenges including:

- Grief and loss
- Relationship breakdowns
- Life changes

Monthly Morning Tea
First Tuesday of each month
at 10:30am

**Next date: Tuesday 5 August
in the Annex
(at the rear of St Therese's Church)**

— YOU ARE WELCOME

KIDS AT MASS IS BACK
 SATURDAY 1 AUGUST
AT ST THERESE'S 6:00PM MASS



Primary school-aged children can listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way. Children who are not yet at school should be accompanied by parent/s

REMAINING DATES FOR 2026
Saturdays 6:00pm
5 September, 10 October, 7 & 28 November

ESSENDON PARISH

SAFEGUARDING

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST:

Hold a current Working With Children Check and must list the parish as a place you volunteer

Complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification every three years

Acknowledge The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct every three years

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?



SCAN ME
FOR
DETAILS

YES

ALL volunteers must be registered as parishioners

If you are a volunteer but not a registered parishioner please fill in a Parishioner Registration Form (available from church entry tables) and return it to the parish office

TUESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Weekly on Tuesdays

from 9:00am

St Therese's

Join our weekly gardening group who meet every Tuesday morning at St Therese's

Meet in the Memorial Garden
at 9:00am

BYO gardening tools if you can
although we do have some tools

All welcome



PARISH CALENDAR	Weekend 25 & 26 July	Candidate Masses for Confirmation at St Therese's	All Masses
	Saturday 25 July	Men's Choir singing at Our Lady of the Nativity	5:00pm
	Sunday 26 July	Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
	Monday 27 July	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Dang family	
	Tuesday 28 July	Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Wednesday 29 July	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
	Thursday 30 July	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Sacrament of Confirmation at St Therese's Sacrament of Confirmation at St Therese's	10:30am 4:30pm 6:30pm
	Friday 31 July	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Requiem Mass for John Michael Pearson at St Therese's	10:30am 11:30am
	Saturday 1 August	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
	Monday 3 August	Fr John begins annual leave Statue of Our Lady moves to the Christie family	
	Tuesday 4 August	Tuesday Gardening Group at St Therese's Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	9:00am 10:00am 10:30am
	Wednesday 5 August	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Parish Leadership Team Meeting	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am 7:00pm
	Thursday 6 August	The Transfiguration of the Lord Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room	10:00am 10:30am
	Friday 7 August	Morning Mass at St Therese's with Fr Frank Buhagiar Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Rosary & Requiem Mass for Elisabetta Marino at St Therese's	10:00am 10:30am 11:00am
	Weekend 8 & 9 August	The Archbishop's Campaign Commences	
	Saturday 8 August	Feast of St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop) Music and Liturgy Team Meeting in PACE function room	9:30am
	Monday 10 August	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Whiting family Alpha Connect evening in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Tuesday 11 August	St Therese's church closed – no morning Mass Centring Prayer group gathering in PACE function room	7:00pm
	Wednesday 12 August	St Therese's church closed – no morning Mass Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
	Thursday 13 August	St Therese's church closed – no morning Mass Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council meeting in PACE	10:30am 7:00pm

MASSES	ST THERESE'S CHURCH 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon Weekday Services: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am Weekend Masses: Saturday 6:00pm Sunday 9:00am & 10:30am Reconciliation: Saturday 5:45pm	OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH 31 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 10:00am Reconciliation: Saturday 4:45pm
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PARISH CONTACTS	PARISH PRIEST Fr John Hannon Office phone: 9401 6330 Office address: 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.essendoncatholic.org.au Office hours: 9:00am until 3:00pm Tuesday to Friday After-Hours phone: 0490 956 610 (answering service) St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code: https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe <i>Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.</i> <i>We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land of the Kulin Nation who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.</i>	
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